

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, JAN. 4, 1856.

No Speaker yet. A despatch received Wednesday afternoon is as follows:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2d.
No Speaker. Plurality rule defeated by twelve votes. The man, woman or child, that chooses, may figure out things for himself, herself, itself. For our own part, we are tired of trying to make anything out of it.

European Matters.
In the existing state of affairs, while speculation is afloat with reference to the progress and probable results of the war now convulsing Europe, and while some uneasiness still exists in the public mind regarding our own relations to the powers of that continent, we think that the views of an intelligent and reliable observer in that hemisphere will be far from unacceptable to our readers. The statements thus derived may be implicitly relied upon. We give the latest information thus received.

There is no doubt that propositions for peace have been submitted directly from the Emperor of Russia to the Emperor of France, which the latter deems satisfactory. They have by him been sent to the English government, and the following occurrence took place in Paris a few days before the date of our correspondent's letter, (Dec. 6th.) Lord Cowley, the British Ambassador at the French Court was in a great rage, and stated to a gentleman that the Queen was sick at heart of the French alliance, and that the manner in which Louis Napoleon treated her was more in the light of one of his subjects, than a Queen of England. But our correspondent says that we may feel assured that the propositions will be accepted, and peace made, unless some unforeseen accident should prevent. It would not be venturing a rash opinion to predict that this result will happen within the next six weeks.

What is to be effected on us? What is the state of things which has to be taken into account before coming to a conclusion on this point? The Government of England and the aristocracy entertain towards us an undoubted hostility—this is manifest. They dislike our growth, our expansion and our future prospects, and they would be well pleased to be involved in a war with us, if they could combine Europe against us. But we have powerful friends in the English nation. All men of active money capital, all manufacturers, merchants, laborers, the mass generally, would look on a war with us as a war against sentiments which they venerate, though they cannot establish them. This is their disinterested feeling. Then they see in the withholding of the supply of Cotton, Breadstuffs, and Bullion, a calamity which they look upon with horror. This sentiment cannot be judged in its extent from a distance. "I had an opportunity," our friend writes, "of witnessing it within the last few days in its full force, when certain alarming appearances indicate a difficulty between the two countries."

This large and influential portion of the people of England is represented by a class of statesmen who have risen, in spite of obstacles, to the House of Commons, and who are calmly, but more efficaciously than Kossuth and all his clan, instilling pure republican doctrines into the English mind.

As the present head of the English ministry, Lord Palmerston, the United States has a bitter and unrelenting foe, and, at the same time, she has his downfall within her grasp. A bold and decisive course, on the part of this country, with reference to the Crampton enlistment affair, and the other matters of difficulty between the two countries, would at once arouse all the friendly elements already spoken of, and a great strength would be given to the opposition by the alarm of the masses. No fear is entertained that the French government could be drawn into hostilities against us as yet. Indeed, the "entente cordiale" between England and France is almost broken, and the establishment of peace puts an end to it altogether. Should the war cease now, it ends at a most unpropitious moment for England. Her career in it has been marked by no redeeming characteristic but the bravery of her soldiers, who, ill-fed and worse provided, fought with a courage which could not be surpassed. But France has won all the "glorie," and the Emperor feels it; and it is just at this moment that the "parvenue" surrounds himself and his lovely and "interesting" wife with the royalty of Europe. Victoria—the Royal House of Brabant—the King of Sardinia—the Duke of Cambridge, at successive times have tasted the hospitality of the Tuilleries—have been made to "rejoice" to the greatness of French military renown by the exhibition of the old and scarred veterans, under the roof of the "Hotel des Invalides," and beneath the lofty and spacious dome, and in their turn have been carried pilgrims to the shrine of "the Prisoner of St. Helena." Nor has this shrewd and intelligent monarch failed to impress his visitors with the present military strength of France, leaving them to remember that he has 180 thousand men in the Crimea, 10 thousand in Rome, and six hundred thousand in France. He summons to their view his camp of seventy-five thousand men at St. Omer, and he marches them thro' files extending for miles from the railroad stations to St. Cloud. He bids them to the *Champs de Mars*, where 30 thousand cavalry and 50 thousand foot pass in review, and he tells them that besides all this, Bordeaux, Lyons, Marseilles, Lille, Strasbourg, indeed all France, possesses, in their proportion, the same well drilled, active, highly disciplined soldiery. And, as if to startle Europe still farther with the power of France, he throws into the market a bill for seven hundred and fifty million francs, and responses flow in to twenty times the amount, not from the rich and great, but from the *bourgeoisie* and the *ouvrier*, the citizen and the blouse. The situation of France at this time is a study for a statesman, and whether he approves the mode by which this power was secured, or the manner in which it is employed, he cannot fail to be impressed with the power—actual, tangible and efficacious.

A very high tribute of respect is now being paid to the great doctrine inaugurated by the Democratic party of the United States, in the gradual adoption of the principles of Free Trade. Several important reductions have taken place in the rate of duties levied by France, within the last few years, but no more important action has been had than a late decree which enables foreign-built shipping to be naturalized and owned by French citizens. We may also notice the free importation into France of timber, lumber, &c., and assurances are given, from authentic sources, of the determination of the government to carry the principle still further, and to adopt free trade as its policy. In all this there is discoverable a determination to become independent of Liverpool, and to make France, now communicating with the whole continent by Railroads extending in every direction, the point of attraction for trans-Atlantic commerce. It is our policy to build up this feeling, for, besides giving us competing markets, it enables us to hold the interests of the continent in our hands, dependent upon us for the supply which they now derive [second-hand] from England.

The Emperor of France will soon be (*Deo volente*) in a situation to dispense with her hoop. She is in fine health, and the luck of the Emperor almost ensures a son.

The prospects of peace thus held out are, we must

say, decidedly acceptable to us. Some accident may intervene to prevent it. Our own views did not point to any immediate peace, still, there is no doubt of the correctness of our correspondent's statements, and as little of the fact that he is in a position to draw more accurate conclusions from the circumstances of the case than we, at a distance, could expect to do.

The Message.
Want of time and space yesterday prevented our making any attempt at analysis or synopsis of the President's message for the convenience of such of our readers as might feel indisposed or unable to devote the time necessary for the perusal of the document at length.

In the matter of Foreign relations, those existing between the United States and Great Britain, in connection with Central American affairs, present the most threatening aspect. The British interpretation of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty is so directly at variance with that adopted by the United States, as to come in direct collision. The President evidently regards this issue as threatening. The prospects of a peaceable settlement cannot, as yet, appear very bright, when the Chief Magistrate only feels justified in using the extremely cautious language, "It has appeared proper to me not to consider an amicable solution of the controversy hopeless."

The recruitment affair is also gone into at some length. The subject is under discussion, the result of which will be communicated to Congress in due time. Some other matters of minor importance, affecting our relations with Great Britain, are referred to.

Our relations with other foreign nations are briefly referred to. The President recommends a revision of the existing tariff, with a view of bringing the revenue within the bounds required for a prudent and economical administration of the government. He thinks that the principle on which the revenue of the country is raised, kept and disbursed, is correct, and ought not to be deviated from.

An army retired list is recommended for disabled officers, and an increase of pay for those in active service.

An appropriation is recommended for the construction of six steam sloops of war.

The post office does not pay expenses by over two millions of dollars. This is attributed to the vast amount of printed matter carried free, and also to the high rate of pay to railroads and steamships carrying the mails.

The remaining topics "Constitutional Theory of the Government," and "Constitutional Relations of Slavery," are treated in a bold, able, manly and thoroughly national manner. They are treated in a manner worthy of President Pierce. The same man around whom the national, conservative men of the country rallied in 1852. It is the doctrine of the Democratic party—the glorious seventy-four. It is the only doctrine with which the country can be safe.

As for the President's sending in his message before the organization of the House, the message itself explains that. If factions will not organize, the President is still bound to act in pursuance of the Constitution. And, besides, there are matters affecting our foreign relations which the Senate can act upon irrespective of the House, now that the President has officially communicated them.

Daily Journal, 3d inst.
The Nicaragua affair is, next to the speaker-ship, the most prominent topic before the public of the United States. The President has declined to receive Col. Parker H. French as minister from the new government of Nicaragua, on the ground that the previously existing government was overthrown, and the present government established by persons not citizens of Nicaragua, and the government of the United States is not in possession of information sufficient to assure it that the government so established is really acceptable to the majority of the people of that State, or has any claim to speak on their behalf. Under these circumstances, he cannot be received; not, at any rate, until more definite information shall have been received.

The attempt of the Northern Light to go to sea, in defiance of the authorities of the United States, was very promptly rebuked by the guns of the public armed vessels. There can be little doubt that the Transit Company, to which that steamer belongs, is a party to the movements in Nicaragua, or that adventures have been carried out, with a view to interference there, on board the vessels of that company, or that there were such on board the Northern Light by the mediate, if not the immediate, assistance of Col. French.

We have a very exalted opinion of General Walker. His course in Lower California and Sonora was not calculated to give reason for such an opinion, nor can we regard his doings in Nicaragua as other than successful filibustering. But for all that, he may accomplish something. Without being a Saint, he may still be able to infuse new life into the half-dead body of the Central American Republics, and, in fact, the pioneer of Uncle Sam on the Isthmus.

It rained through all the moods and tenses, and all the degrees of comparison. We got but one New Year's gift, and it was seasonable. A gentleman walked into our office, on Tuesday, and laid on our table a small package, about a foot long. We looked inquiringly, and he did a tale unfold, and he also unfolded the package which turned out to be a double-bank action, patent foldable umbrella. "There," said he, "never say that republics are ungrateful; that umbrella I specially selected for you, from a large and splendid assortment at Scott & Baldwin's." "Where," said he enthusiastically, "they have all manner of things that a gentleman wants in his line." To all this we assented—the fact is no doubt so. But our friend waxed rather uncomplimentary. Says he, "that's the place to get clothes, and by the way, your br—caldoch generally." That was enough, and we contrived to change the subject, although, no doubt, our friend knew what he was talking about.—Daily Journal, 3d inst.

Congress.
It is next to useless to say anything about the Speaker-ship. There is no Speaker and that is about all that can be said. Over eighty ballots have been had without result. On Friday Mr. Seward of Georgia, introduced the following:—

Whereas it is apparent, under the existing differences of opinion in this House, that no organization thereof can be effected without some effort to unite all that agree on the doctrine of non-intervention as asserted in the Kansas and Nebraska act, viz: that the people of the Territories shall be left perfectly free to regulate their own domestic policy; and whereas it is indispensable to effect an organization that all differences of opinion on other questions should be postponed without compromise or concession on the part of any member voting for this resolution: be it

Resolved, That WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON be chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Thirty-fourth Congress.

This resolution was subsequently withdrawn, there appearing no chance for its passage. The so-called "Americans" have thus had the olive branch extended to them, and have thrust it back with contempt.

Ex-Senator Berrien of Georgia, died on the 1st instant.

Retrospective.
The last day of the year seems to be a fitting period to cast a glance over the events by which the character of the time, must, in future ages, be estimated. Eighteen hundred and fifty-five is not yet historical. The feelings of excited partisanship inevitable to all times in which history is acted, must measurably subside before that history can be written, and even then, we need hardly say that infallibility is no attribute of so-called history.

But there are events in the history of the year now passing away that all must have seen, and drawn their inferences from. The great European war is a staring and significant fact, too deeply important to be ignored, even by those who have no immediate connection with it. Blessed with peace, and with wisdom enough to let other people fight their own battles without involving ourselves in entangling alliances or futile sacrifices, the United States still feel the effects of the terrible struggle.—We feel it here in the depression of our leading staples, and in the "tightness" which is the inevitable result of such a state of things. To us peace is desirable only less than to the actual combatants.

Taking out of account the terrible waste of human life, from which the Christian and philanthropist must shrink with horror, the waste of capital, and its diversion from the channels of commerce and peaceful enterprise, is a matter deeply to be deplored by the statesman and the merchant. Allied by interest as the world is, the loss or diversion of the capital of any of its separate communities is felt by all as so much abstracted from the common fund. And this war, has so far, been fruitless of results, save in the way of mutual exhaustion and distress. The rumors of peace with which the year closes may amount to nothing. We think that they will eventuate in nothing, for the present; but the eagerness with which they are caught up, shows the general longing for peace pervading the public mind of Europe, and we may add, of America.

How to classify the year with reference to the experience of our own land, will be found somewhat difficult. It has not been a year of disaster, but neither can it be regarded as one of positive prosperity. There has been no actual "crisis," but neither has there been any hearty buoyancy. The tendency of nothing has been upwards, if we except the cost of living. As a general thing, real estate, whether in private hands or as represented by stock in public works, bears a lower money value than it did a year or two ago. The European war has, no doubt, had much to do with this, by hastening the inevitable reaction which, sooner or later, have followed the undue expansion of the credit system, and the inflated values consequent upon such undue expansion.

There is little or no question that, as a people, we have gone it with rather too much of a rush—that we have bought ahead of our available means of payment—that we have lived in a *little* bigger style than cautious prudence would have dictated—that the rivalry in building fine houses, and doing other fine things, has carried many out of their depths, and that a "pressure" must have come with settling day. No doubt, circumstances have brought that day on sooner than it would otherwise have come; but, the thing has been merely a matter of time, and, upon the whole, we cannot see but it is as well now as at a later period. Some people think we have not seen the worst yet. We think differently, that is, if the lesson of the times be improved. If this be the case, we think that the coming year will place us on the ascending scale of a more healthy progress.

Politically the year has been one of isms—of experiments—of professions and notions, and a pretty kettle of fish has been made of it. The year goes out and no Speaker. Drifted out on the wild sea of excitement they turn again to the old land-marks—to the safe and time-honored principles of the government; and the man who has stood and who now stands foremost by those principles, will find that he has acted well, and also wisely. The people are tired of isms and pretensions and squabbles. The Democratic convention at Cincinnati has a plain course before it. It must take high ground—the higher the better. The more totally regardless of temporary excitements, or temporary expedients, the better; the more boldly, nationally Democratic, the better. Flying that banner once more to the breeze, and there will be found safety in its every fold.

The Speaker-ship.
It may be looked upon as a symptom favoring the early organization of the House, that all hands are exceedingly tired of the present state of affairs, and exceedingly anxious to arrive at some definite result. Where there is a will, there is a way. But beyond this we can see no positive change. Nothing like progress. Everything stands near about where it used to stand. On Wednesday the House resolved that no motion to adjourn should be in order until a Speaker be elected, and then, pending a resolution inviting Mr. Orr, of S. C., to preside as temporary chairman, the House took a recess from four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon until ten o'clock on Thursday morning, of course treating the resolution against adjourning as a dead letter. Still, there appears to be a sort of idea abroad that a Speaker is to be elected this week. Upon what grounds this notion rests, we are totally unable to say, except it be the universal weariness of the present state of things. The mere organization is certainly something, but not everything. Wherever the strength in numbers or intellect may be placed, it will be pretty certain to assert itself, no matter which faction or party gets the first move. The battle of the Constitution must be fought sooner or later on the floor of the House, and in the great arena of the country. If, as appears, the House be really sectional, a national Speaker cannot nationalize it. If otherwise, a sectional Speaker or cannot sectionalize it. If men be only true to their own principles, the country will surely be safe.

We think it more than probable that there will be a Speaker shortly. The public business demands the attention of Congress, and the country, like the members, is getting tired.

The Laying of the Corner Stone.
According to appointment the corner stone of the Town Hall was laid with the appropriate Masonic ceremonies. The stone stands at the North-East corner of the building, and is of marble. A metallic box 15 inches long, 8 inches wide, and 5 inches deep is let into the centre of the stone, and contains various articles and documents, a list of which was read out by Isaac Northrop, Esq. We cannot give the list, as we have no copy. We suppose one will be furnished to some of the papers for publication.—Rev. A. Paul Repton officiated as Chaplain upon the occasion, and Thos. Loring, Esq., made some very impressive remarks. The weather was favorable, and the display very handsome.

By the way, yesterday we said that there was deposited no President's message. We had, of course, reference to the strange fact that on the 27th of December there was still no President's message to deposit.—Daily Journal, 28th inst.

Arrival from Havana.
New York, Jan. 1.—The steamer Quaker City, from Mobile via Havana, with dates to the 27th, arrived here to-day. Her news is unimportant. Two French war vessels had left Havana for San Juan. It was reported that Rachel's health forbids any professional engagements.

The proceedings in the House of Representatives on Thursday were rendered somewhat lively by certain criminalities and recriminations, between the supporters of Mr. Fuller, and the supporters of Mr. Banks. Pending the calling of the roll for the seventeenth time, Mr. Millward of Pennsylvania, a Fuller man, got up and stated that he had been approached privately by a member and assured that he would be made Chairman of a Committee—the Committee on engraving, printing or lithographing if he would vote for Mr. Banks. The name of the member who had approached him was John J. Pearce of Pennsylvania. Mr. Millward stated distinctly, that Pearce had given him to understand that he had Mr. Banks authority for making the offer which he had made. Pearce said that he had laughingly made the proposal on his own responsibility. Mr. Millward said emphatically that Pearce told him that Banks had promised to make him (Millward) Chairman of a Committee in case he voted for Mr. Banks.

Mr. Banks desired to say a word to the House.—He had given no assurance of any kind, whatever, to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, nor to any other gentleman. Mr. Millward, had in the course of the incidental debate, in answer to a question by A. K. Marshall, stated that he had heard assurances given to members, that the interests of Pennsylvania would be safe, &c., in the event of the Pennsylvania delegation going for a certain gentleman for Speaker. Several of Mr. Millward's colleagues were "down" on him for thus, as they insisted, casting imputations on his colleagues. Mr. Paine said that instead of blaming the honorable gentleman, who had exposed the fraud, gentlemen ought to be very much obliged to him. He had himself heard Mr. Pearce say that he had assurances that Mr. Banks would so construct the Committees as to take care of the interests of Pennsylvania.

Mr. A. K. Marshall wanted further balloting dispensed with for the balance of the day, in order that members might have an opportunity of examining into these serious charges thus openly preferred against a prominent candidate for the Speakership. The House refused to adjourn. The roll was called, and Mr. Banks came within three of an election.

The total failure of these charges and exposures to produce the slightest effect upon the balloting, is one of the strange phenomena of the times. Is this to be accounted for on the hypothesis that political morality has reached so low a point in the present House as to render such tampering with members simply a matter of course; or, on the other hand, are these "awful disclosures" merely regarded in the light of a shrewd electioneering dodge on the part of Mr. Fuller's friends to kill off Mr. Banks? There is surely something strange in the matter. It is an old chapter in the history of the times. Verily, the administration party holds no hand in such a game as this.

One time the vote for Mr. Banks came within two of a majority; that was the nearest. The aggregate vote increased and he did not; so that, comparatively speaking, he fell off.

Is there any use in speculating upon the future? Not much we think, but the number and pertinacity of Banks's friends are certainly beginning to tell.—They stick like wax, only more so. Banks certainly stands the best chance. Some think that none of the gentlemen yet voted for can be elected, but that sometime in the first ten days in January, a Democrat, not yet named, will quietly take his place as Speaker, and return his best thanks in his smoothest tone, for the unexpected honor, &c.

The Herald of Monday last, says that in our reference to the recent revelations in the House of Representatives, where one member charged another with endeavoring to procure his vote for Mr. Banks, as speaker, by improper influence, we have forgotten our friend Brown, &c. Now that is the very thing we have not forgotten. It is one of the very things not to be lost sight of in this connection. The peculiarity of the recent affair consists in the fact that although a charge was openly and positively made on the floor of the House, by a member of that House, and circumstantial evidence corroboratory of this fact by others, it seemed to have been passed over as a matter of course. The majority refused to adjourn so as to give members a chance for investigation into so grave a matter, and with this grave matter before the House, the ballot was proceeded with, and no change whatever exhibited in the vote.

How different was the case of Brown. On Wednesday the 12th Dec. 1849, Mr. Brown of Indiana had come within two votes of an election, and it was confidently anticipated that he would receive these on the next ballot. In the meantime, in the course of some discussion it was asked whether some correspondence had not taken place between Mr. Brown and the Free Soilers. This drew from Mr. Bayly of Virginia, an indignant denial. But the question being put to Brown directly, he admitted that David Wilmot had written a letter to which he had given an answer. He had in fact promised to constitute certain committees in a way that would be satisfactory to Wilmot and his friends. Mr. Brown endeavored to explain but without effect. The state of excitement was without parallel. Mr. Brown never got a vote after that revelation.—His name was instantly withdrawn. That was the way the Democratic party acted when its nominee was caught in a wrong place, tampering with Free-Soilers or any body else.

We do not forget the case of Brown. We recollect it well, and we know in what a bright contrast the conduct of the Democratic party then, stands out in opposition to that of the dominant party now. It is due to Brown to say that after all the bitter denunciation which had been heaped upon his head, he, in that very Congress, went the whole trip, fugitive Slave Law, included. We believe that years after, after he had been fully tried, he was appointed to some office in Ohio or Indiana.

If the new regime is to restore the purer days of the Republic, all that we can say is, that the developments in the House, so far, make a mighty lame showing that way.

A BIG TURNIP.—D. McMillan, Esq., presented us this morning with what seems to us a glorious vegetable of the above species, weighing twelve pounds, and measuring thirty-two inches in circumference. There may be turnips that can beat this, but we should like to see them. The turnip in question was grown on Mr. McMillan's plantation, on the Sound, 25 miles from town. Mr. McMillan has our thanks for his curiosity.

By Request.
At the request of the Board of Commissioners of Navigation and Pilotage, for Cape Fear River and Bars, we publish the Act regarding Pilotage, as laid down in the 17th section, 85th chapter, of the revised code of the laws of North Carolina, to take effect on and after this day, viz:

"No master of a vessel shall be required to take or keep a Pilot on board, or pay for pilotage, in the river or inside of the bar, in going either up or down the river; nor shall any vessel, under sixty tons burthen, be compelled to take a Pilot while crossing the bar, or pay pilotage, except where signals are made for a Pilot, and no vessel coming in at either of the said inlets, with a view to the more convenient prosecution of her voyage, or to make a harbor, shall be subject to the payment of pilotage."

We publish to-day our table of exports for the quarter ending 31st ult., as compared with a similar period in 1854. We cannot say that the exhibit is as flattering as we could have wished; but it is quite as good as could have been expected under the circumstances, when we take into account the unusual, and indeed, almost unprecedented depression which has pervaded every interest connected with our leading staples. At the present ruling rates for turpentine and spirits, there is slight stimulus for either distillation or the production of the crude article. The timber and lumber interest has also shared in the general depression, and the falling off in the exports of the year is much more marked than on the quarter just closed.

In the minor articles there are apparent some fluctuations, but not necessary to refer to now.—We shall go into the whole matter more fully in connection with the publication of our yearly statement, from which it will also appear that cotton has very largely increased. It may be proper to remark that the flour reported this quarter has mainly arrived by railroad. It is for our mercantile community to use their exertions to extend their trade with the interior in the direction of the North Carolina Railroad. It can only be extended by their own efforts, and we really must say that the employment of such exertions will be much more in keeping with the reputation for energy and enterprise so nobly earned by the mercantile community of this place, than will be any querulous complainings or talkings about a Virginia road. To say the least, as far as the road is concerned, we are in fully as favorable a position as anybody else, and besides, the thing is done and can't be undone. Working to avail ourselves of the advantage we have is far preferable to lamenting over the advantages we have not.

"Happy New Year" to everybody, not excepting the "Know Nothings" personally, commercially and socially—politically we want everybody to be democratically happy.

It being the First of January we have many things to attend to out of doors and must beg our friends to excuse some postponements of little items until next day. Eighteen-fifty-six is upon us and a mighty uncomfortable beginning it makes. Well, a bad beginning makes a good ending. So the proverb says. So mote it be.

DIVIDENDS.—The Bank of Fayetteville has declared a semi-annual dividend of 5 per cent. The Charlotte & South Carolina Rail Road a dividend of 3 per cent.

Two Weeks Later From California.
New Orleans, Dec. 26.—The steamer Daniel Webster arrived here yesterday from San Juan, which port she left on the 12th, bringing dates from San Francisco to the 5th inst. The rainy season had set in.

The Indian war in Oregon continued at the latest accounts. The San Francisco markets were quiet. Provisions were dull, with a declining tendency.

The steamer Star of the West left San Juan for New York with \$500,000 in gold. Nicaragua affairs were in an unsettled state. Walker had received 120 men by the steamer Sierra Nevada.

ONE WEEK LATER FROM EUROPE.
New York, Dec. 28.—The American steamer Pacific arrived here this afternoon, with Liverpool dates to the 15th inst.

The news is quite interesting. From Asia intelligence has been received of the fall of Kars, before the Russian arms. No particulars had been received, but the garrison is supposed to have been cut off in consequence of the famine prevailing. When General Kintz and another Turkish officer escaped from the city to hasten the advance of Omar Pacha, Gen. Williams was about sending a flag of truce to the Russians, to offer terms of capitulation. Nothing was known, but it was believed that the garrison had surrendered, as it was only some 8000 strong; and they were too much reduced by famine to cut their way through the Russians. Omar Pacha was near Kutais, which the Russians hold in force. From the Crimea the intelligence is that the Russians had attacked the extremity of the French lines with a force of 3,000 men, and after an hour's fighting the latter had been driven back. The accident was caused by the watch of the Conductor of the fast train being three-quarters of an hour slow.

The firing still continues between the north and south sides of Sebastopol. Russia has opened a new loan at Berlin and Hamburg of fifty million rubles. The Austrian army has been reduced to the peace force.

Naples has published a convention with the United States, defining the rights of neutrals. The Queen of England has made an order in council which authorizes the issue of \$475,000 in notes by the Bank of England beyond the amount specified by the bank charter.

Respecting the prospects of peace there are a mass of extraordinary statements, but if negotiations be on foot they have not progressed a step. It is known that differences exist in the English cabinet. Lords Palmerston and Pannmure urge on the war, whilst the rest of the cabinet supports Napoleon's suggestion to embrace the present opportunity to make peace.

Further from California.—Arrival of the George.
New York, December 28th.—The steamer George Law arrived here this afternoon, from Aspinwall, bringing 275 passengers and \$1,500,000 in gold.

The steamer Golden Age, with New York dates to the 5th ultimo, arrived at San Francisco on the 20th of the month, with dates to the 9th, arrived up on the 4th inst.

The George/Law brings San Francisco dates to the 5th inst., the same as received via New Orleans yesterday.

The Indian war in the North was progressing with much violence and considerable disaster on both sides. Nearly all the Indians of the North were arrayed against the whites.

A true bill had been found against Gen. Richardson, the Italian gambler, for the murder of General Richardson. The festival at San Francisco in honor of the fall of Sebastopol ended in a row. Some 10,000 persons were present. After the breaking up of the celebration, a large procession of Americans marched to the Russian consul's residence.

Murders were on the increase in the State. The newspapers teem with them. The steamer Georgia burst her boiler at Petaluma, killing two persons and wounding many others. The disaster was caused by the carelessness of the officers of the boat, who have been indicted.

On the 13th the U. S. frigate Independence saluted the French flag on the corvette Embuscade in reparation for the arrest of General Dillon, who then raised his flag.

The Indians at Puget's Sound have entered into an alliance to wage war upon the whites. In an engagement at Puyallup River the Indians were defeated with a loss of 30 killed.

Oregon dates to the 29th ult. had been received.—Several engagements had taken place between the volunteers and the Indians, in which the latter were worsted. The U. S. forces had returned to Dallas to await orders from Gen. Wool.

Governor Douglas, of Vancouver's Island, had placed arms and ammunition at the disposal of Governor Mason.

At the mouth of the Big River, near Mendocino, on the 28th of October, a tremendous swell from the Ocean broke in and wrecked the American brig Kingsbury and North Bend, and a Chilean bark.—Six lives were lost.

Business was very dull at San Francisco, and the prices of most articles had greatly declined, although the Market closed with a slight reaction. The closing rates for Haxall Flour was \$15. Mess Pork \$37 50. Crushed Sugar 11 cents. Spirits Turpentine 85 cents. Butter 22 1/2 to 35 cents. Lard 21 cents.

DEMOCRATIC MEETING.
The Democratic Vigilance Committee for Wilmington, and other members of the party in the town and county, are requested to assemble in the Court-House, to-morrow (Friday) evening, the 4th inst., at 7 1/2 o'clock. Business of importance will come before the meeting.
J. D. BELLAMY,
Ch'n Dem. Vig. Com.
Jan. 3d, 1856.

From Havana.
NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 28.—The steamship Granada has arrived here, with Havana dates to the 24th inst. Most of the passengers and the mails saved from the wrecked steamer Crescent City arrived at Havana on the 20th. The papers publish letters blaming the captain for the disaster.

Mlle. Rachel had arrived at Havana. Six Creoles, charged with sedition had been arrested, and sent to Spain.

The sentence of the American sailors, Channey and Winn, through the strenuous exertions of Consul Robertson, had been commuted to labor in the arsenal, without the mark of degradation, and receiving a slight compensation for their labor.

Still Later from Havana.
CHARLESTON, Dec. 28.—The steamer Isabel has arrived from Havana, which port she left on Wednesday morning, stopping at Key West the same day.

The steamer Star of the West arrived at Key West on Monday, from San Juan, with one hundred passengers and \$500,000 in specie. She left the same evening for New York.

The ship Ashburton, of Newburyport, seven days from New Orleans for Liverpool, got ashore on American shoals on the 22d, but got off after removing a portion of her cargo.

Refusal of the Government to Recognize Col. French as Minister from Nicaragua.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Col. Parker H. French addressed a letter to Mr. Marcy, enclosing a copy of his credentials as Minister from Nicaragua, and requesting an interview. Mr. Marcy replied, and instead of appointing an interview, anticipated what he would have said at once, which was, in substance, that the persons who had overthrown the government of Nicaragua were not citizens; and, until there should have been some popular recognition or confirmation of the new government, the United States could not recognize Col. French, nor any one else, as Minister from the new government. I know these to be the facts, and you can rely upon them as such, notwithstanding any and all statements, by whomsoever made, to the contrary. B.

The Alleged Filibustering Expedition.
NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The Northern Light is still under seizure, the case having been refused. A search is going on in the District Court. The Attorney has directed that all packages on the steamer manifest shall remain undisturbed until the others have been opened. The parties previously arrested have been again arrested, and put under heavy bonds. [SECOND DESPATCH.]

Several persons charged with originating this filibustering expedition have been admitted to bail to-day in the sum of \$5,000 each.

All the cargo has been carefully examined except the coal, which will be overhauled at Greytown.—The District Attorney, at the request of the Steamship Company, will let two United States officers accompany the Northern Light to Greytown.

The Steamboat Company use very strong language, and threaten to sue the United States District Attorney for damages.

There is a report that a despatch has been received from New Orleans stating that a large number of filibusters would leave that city to-day in the Prometheus for Greytown.

Terrible Railroad Accident.

PITTSBURG, January 1.—A terrible accident occurred near Darlington, Beaver county, on the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad, last evening. Several persons are reported as having been killed.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]
At half past four o'clock yesterday afternoon, the three o'clock train going west on the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad, came in collision with the fast train going east to Darlington Summit. The accident occurred at the heavy curve and was quite disastrous in its effects. Four persons were killed:—Mr. Stokes, the agent of the New Castle and Erie Stage Company; a man named Johnston; an Irish man, and another individual whose name is not ascertained. About sixteen were wounded—among them, the engineer of the express train, and the fireman, the latter having one arm shattered. The locomotives and cars were seriously injured, both trains being under full headway. The accident was caused by the watch of the Conductor of the fast train being three-quarters of an hour slow.

Correspondence of the Journal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29th, 18

